

New Years Eve Party Time



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Planning Your New Years Eve Party the Right Way

Having or attending a New Year's Eve Party is something many look forward too. New Years Eve is traditionally one of the biggest party nights of the year when family and friends get together. Even though having your own party can be a lot of work it can be a lot of fun too! To have the best and stress free party you'll want to make sure you plan it the right way.

Getting Started

The first thing you'll want to do is make a guest list. Knowing how many people to expect will help you determine where to have the party as well as how much food and beverages will be required.

For example if your planning on having more than 100 people at your party and you don't have a very big house, you'll need to seek out other places to hold the party. This could be someone else's house, restaurant, club or perhaps a catering hall. Also keep in mind when planning your guest list that your guest will likely want to bring a date, so you need to factor that in to the number of attendees you might expect.

Invitations

Once you've decided who you want to invite, you'll need to determine how you want to send the invitations. Of course the most traditional method is to mail them. You'll want to be sure the invitations provide all the necessary information such as date, time, and place, but should also include how to RSVP. It's best to give them a deadline to let you know if they are coming and if they are bringing a date, so that you have time to get everything arranged.

Other methods of delivering the invitations are to send them an electronic invitation by email or calling them on the phone.

The Food

Once you know how many guests will be attending your party you need to decide on what food will be served and how much will be needed. In most cases a New Years Eve party starts later in the evening after dinner, in which case you'll want to have a good supply of snack items such as appetizers, finger foods and drinks on hand.

If your New Year's Eve party is going to start more around the dinner hour, you'll want to have more filling food or perhaps a full course dinner. If you plan to have your party go on until the next morning you may also want to include a New Year's Day Brunch that would include breakfast items that are served when the sun starts coming up.

The Entertainment

What would a party be without some form of Entertainment! This is another thing you'll need to plan for your party. Some options could include a DJ, a Band or maybe just your own music selections. You could also consider hiring a standup comedian or some friends who want to be comedians may work as well. Of course a lot of the choices you make will depend on the budget you have to work with as well, but these tips should get you off to a good start.

New Years Eve Party Activities

You've got the guest list, food, decorations and location all decided but now you need to decide what type of entertainment you want to provide. Some options of course are to hire a live band, a DJ, comedy act or maybe just use your own music. These are all good options, but there are some other ways you may want to consider as well.

Fun with Karaoke

Many people have a blast with karaoke, and this could be an excellent choice for you! Karaoke gets people involved and is a fun way for guests to entertain themselves and can be a very cost effective option. A karaoke machine can be purchased for less than \$50 (where I live) and provides the guest with music and singing for far less than a live band or DJ would cost you! While the singing may not be professional that's what makes it so much fun!

Murder Mystery

Another activity that is becoming more popular is to have a 'murder mystery' event. This type of event is normally hosted at a dinner theater and the guests are encouraged to participate in solving the murder case. If you can afford it you may want to hire some actors to pretend to be guests so they can interact with everyone like a normal guest would as this helps add to the air of mystery. Of course you'll want to instruct the actors to not reveal their true identities to the other guests.

You may not normally think of food as a source of entertainment but it can be if you let the guests participate in the preparation. One idea is to plan a party where preparing the food is part of the party activities. Another idea is to hire a special chef to come and teach the guests how to make some gourmet type of dish such as sushi rolls. All the food prepared will be served at the party.

Movie Viewing Party

If you want a more quiet New Years Eve party you could make it a movie viewing party. For example you could pick a theme for the party and all the movies would be related to the party theme. You could also serve food that would flow with the theme you've chosen as well or you could serve food that would normally be found at the movie theater.

Planning Your New Years Eve Party Games

One part of planning for your New Years Eve Party is to provide entertainment and games are a great way to do that. Here are some New Years Eve Party ideas to get you started.

Drinking Game

Since in most cases a New Years Eve Party will include drinking alcohol, which is the inspiration for this particular game. You start by providing each person with a word that is likely to come up in a casual conversation, then writing that word on a nametag for that person to wear throughout the evening. Next you'll have each guest carry a shot glass of vodka in their hand at all times. If another person catches them using the word on their nametag, they must drink their shot of vodka. They then must pickup another shot glass of vodka to carry around in the event they should get caught again. The drink doesn't have to be vodka, but it should be some kind of alcoholic drink. This game works great because it encourages people to mingle with the other guest and try to get them to say the word on their nametag.

If you want to make the game even more interesting you may choose to use the sticky type of nametags and put the word on their back without telling them what the word is. This makes the game more challenging because not only do they have to try and avoid using the word, they have to try and figure out what the word is.

Exercise Precaution

While having fun is all well and good you need to exercise some precaution with this game so that someone doesn't get too drunk or get drunk too fast, so you need to set a limit as to how many drinks one person can have and once that limit is reached they have to remove the word tag.

Casino Style Fun

Having a casino type of setup is another popular choice for gaming fun at a New Years Eve Party. You can setup different tables for the different games such as Keno, blackjack, and poker just to name a few. Think of other type of card games that you may see in a casino to help you come up with ideas. Of course you'll want to find some people to act as the dealers at the tables as well to make it more realistic. Provide each of the guest with a set number of poker chips and tell them they can cash in their winning chips toward the end of the party for raffle tickets. You will then hold a drawing to distribute the prizes.

Dancing Games

Dancing is sure to be a part of the evening's festivities, but you can also play some games that involve dancing such as the 'freeze' game. This is similar to what kids play as you will play the music and then stop it, at which time everyone is required to freeze in place. The last person to freeze is the loser. You will need to have someone managing the music and someone else being the judge to determine who lost each round. The game continues on until one person is left and they will be declared the winner.

Choosing New Years Eve Party Favors

If planning a New Years Eve Party, you'll want to consider providing them with some party favors so they can have a memento of the occasion. You will find there are many choices of party favors to choose from.

When preparing your budget for your New Years Eve party you will need to decide if you will include party favors for your guests, as this will have an impact on your overall budget. This can be especially important if you're on a small budget.

One popular choice for New Years Eve party favors are Champagne glasses with the date of the party inscribed on it. Other favorites are top hats, clocks and of course the roll out whistles.

Themed Party Favors

If your party has a theme you may want to choose party favors that tie in with the party theme. For instance lets say your party theme is a cowboy theme, you could give your guests beer mugs instead of glasses. If the theme was marine related you could give them something like seashells with the date painted on them.

Candy Wrappers

No one ever gets tired of getting candy so this is another good choice. You can have the wrapping paper imprinted with the date of the party to help them remember the fun time they had.

Potluck Party Favors

If you're on a small budget but still want to have party favors you can have each guest bring a party favor, which can be new or something they already have. You'll collect all the party favors as the guest arrive, and then place them at each place setting, covered by a thin cloth of some kind. Once everyone is seated they will uncover their favor, and the guest who brought the

favor can tell the story about how they got the favor or they can just fabricate a story if they want too. This way the favors can also serve as a source of entertainment for everyone.

Decorating Ideas for New Years Eve Party

No party would be complete without the decorations! If you don't know where to begin in choosing your party decorations you may need some helpful ideas to get you started, so we'll cover some helpful decorating tips in this section.

Combine Christmas & New Years Decorations

Since New Years Eve follows so closely to Christmas most people still have their Christmas decorations up, so it's perfectly acceptable to have some Christmas decorations for your New Years Eve party as well. You can make some centerpieces for the tables using some candlesticks, holly, pinecones, red bows and ornaments.

Let Your Guests Help Decorate

If you're looking for an economical yet fun way to decorate for your party, you could ask each guest to bring a decorative item to add to the party atmosphere decor. If your party is following any kind of special theme then you can let the guest know that it needs to be an item related to the overall theme. Using this method may give you a varied selection of decorative items, but it can really reduce the time, money and effort needed for the decorations.

During the party your guests will have the opportunity to see all the decorative items and you can give them a chance to talk about them if they want too and perhaps explain where they got the item and why they chose to bring that particular one to the party.

Themed Decorations

In general a New Years Eve Party doesn't have to follow any particular theme, but if you choose to go with one you'll want to have decorations to match the theme. For example if you choose to go with a western theme, you may want to have some cowboy hats, cow bells and saddles scattered about. You could also have some gingham tablecloths and old-fashioned lanterns except they would be powered by batteries instead of fire to avoid a potential fire hazard.

When planning your decorations it's good to keep in mind that they are there to add to the atmosphere and not the main focus of the party which is to have fun dancing, talking and just overall having a good time while toasting the new year in with family and friends.

Choosing Beverages for Your New Years Eve Party

It's no secret that drinking alcoholic beverages is normally the drink of choice for a New Years Eve Party, but how do you go about deciding what variety of drinks you should serve? Perhaps these tips will help you decide.

Non-Alcoholic Drinks

One of the first things you have to consider is whether or not there will be kids at the party, if so then of course you will need some non-alcoholic drinks to serve. Plus there may also be adults who choose not to drink alcohol as well. This doesn't mean you have to limit the non-alcoholic beverages to sodas, you can make what is called mock-cocktails, which uses much the same ingredients as an alcohol drink except without the alcohol. You can do this with things such as Margaritas, Pina coladas, Daiquiris, or Martinis to name a few.

More Beverage Ideas

You'll want to plan on having a variety of drinks available for your party guests. For instance you may want to have both hot and cold drinks or perhaps even a frozen drink. The punch bowl is always a party favorite and will usually contain such things as lemon lime soda, fruit juices, or punch mix, and of course will contain some form of alcohol such as rum, vodka or maybe even some champagne. Some people have been known to add a couple of scoops of sherbet ice cream to the punch bowl, to add to the flavor and texture. Just a word of warning...If children are attending the party, be sure to keep them away from the punch bowl.

Special Holiday Drinks

Some other popular drinks for New Years Eve may include an Eggnog martini, or perhaps champagne cocktail. You can easily create a champagne cocktail by mixing champagne with some sweet vermouth and grenadine.

Since this is also the time of year for hot drinks you could offer them some hot chocolate, spiked coffee or hot cider. You can make a luscious hot chocolate

cocktail simply by mixing some butterscotch liqueur in with the hot chocolate. Hot cider can be good mixed with rum and cranberry juice.

New Years Eve Toast

As the midnight hour approaches it's usually customary to offer your guest a glass of champagne to toast the New Year in. You'll want to start distributing the glasses of champagne shortly before midnight to be sure everyone has a glass in hand to participate in the traditional New Years Eve toast at midnight. If your budget allows for it splurge on some good champagne and fancy glasses to serve them in, just to make the occasion more special.

Food Preparations for you New Years Eve Party

Getting your food ready for your New Years Eve Party can be a lot of fun or you may find it stressful. It might even be a mix of both. If you have a lot of experience in having parties then you already know how to handle all the preparations easily and you can have some fun along the way.

The first thing you have to decide is what food you plan to serve at your party. For instance you may choose to go with a full dinner and have some light snacks for later or you may choose to have a table full of snacks instead because normally the party won't start until about late evening. Once you've chosen one of the 2 choices above you can then start planning the food preparation time.

Catering Service

If you have the budget for it you may opt to use a catering service, then you don't have to worry about all the food preparations. The other advantage to this is they will supply the equipment to keep the food cold/hot, and they will be there to serve the guest and clean up the food later as well. This leaves you free to just enjoy the evening with your guests.

Preparing Food in Advance

If catering isn't something you can afford you may opt to prepare the bulk of the food in advance. Search some recipes books and you're bound to find some food dishes that can be chilled, kept at room temperature or hot. It also will depend on if you're having a sit down dinner or just a lot of snacks such as finger foods, appetizers, chips and Pizza. Most of these things can be easily prepared shortly before the party or you could have Pizza delivered later in the evening.

Potluck Food

Another way to go is to have a potluck New Years Eve Party, and then you don't have to do much food preparation at all. If you go with a potluck affair you will

want to coordinate what everyone is bringing so they don't all bring the same thing.

New Years Eve Party on a Shoestring Budget

If you want to have a New Years Eve Party but don't have much money to spend on it...don't fret, where there's a will there's a way! In this section we'll give you some helpful tips for planning your New Years Eve Party on a tight budget.

The first thing you'll want to do is determine exactly how much your budget is then make a list of the things you'll need. Such as:

- How many guests
- Location
- What type of invitations
- Food
- Drink
- Decorations
- Entertainment

Now you'll need to allocate what percent of your budget will go to each item.

Guest List

The guest list is the starting point because this will help you determine where you're going to host it. If you're on a small budget a house party would be your best choice for the location so you will need to consider this when making your guest list.

Food Budget

Of course every party needs food! Once you know what your budget is for food you can go about selecting what food you want to serve. While a catered affair would certainly be nice, it most likely won't be possible on a tight budget as catering does not come cheap. So let's look at some less expensive options. You could provide appetizers, finger foods and snack foods such as chips and dips, pretzels or popcorn. You could even opt for Pizza!

When choosing your appetizers for the New Years Eve party, you need to take into account the number of guests you'll be expecting. For instance if your party doesn't include dinner then you should allow for approx 12-15 appetizers per person. You also should plan on providing at least 5-7 different appetizers so they have some variety of to choose from.

Potluck Food Party

Another option would be to make the party a potluck party and that way your guests would actually be providing most of the food. You could provide the main course and then let the guest bring the side dishes, salads, desserts, appetizers, finger foods or chips.

Affordable Entertainment

Next you're going to need to some affordable entertainment. Since you're on a tight budget hiring outside entertainment is likely to be an option unless you know someone who will perform for free. So your most likely choice is going to be to provide your own music with a CD player. You could even ask the guests to bring some of their own music to add a bit more variety. You can manage the music yourself or ask the guests if they'd like to take turns playing DJ, which can liven things up even more.

Economical Beverages Options

Beverages will also need to be taken into consideration. The least expensive way to provide beverages is to make the party a B.Y.O.B (bring your own booze) then you could provide some liter bottles of a variety of sodas and if possible some bottles of champagne so that everyone could have some to toast the new year in. If Champagne doesn't fit the budget don't worry about it you can toast with any drink.

Affordable Decorations

Decorations don't have to be a big expense especially if you're doing this in a house, which still has Christmas decorations up. Just buy a few New Years related items such as some streamers, banners, paper cups, plates, napkins and

of course some noise makers. Add the New Years decorations to the already festive Christmas decorations and you should be good to go.

Inexpensive Invitations

Invitations are another thing that don't have to be expensive especially in this electronic age, where everyone has an email address. To save money on invitations just send them out by email and save a lot of money. You can design an invitation in something like word and then just attach it email it to everyone on your guest list. If you want to find some free party invitations templates you can find some at <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/CT101043231033.aspx>

Another option is to use a free online service to send your invitations by email. Here's a couple that I know of <http://www.sendomatic.com> or <http://www.evite.com> . Now you should have everything you need to get your party going!

Planning a Non-Alcohol New Years Eve Party

Traditionally a New Years Eve Party has always included alcoholic beverages, but with the increase in DUI related arrests and accidents in recent years some people are now opting to have a non-alcoholic New Years Eve Party. Another reason to have a non-alcohol party could be due to the ages of the people who would be attending the party. Regardless of why you decide to have a non-alcoholic party you will still need to plan on good entertainment to keep things lively and fun.

Be sure to state on the invitations that the party will be non-alcoholic and also politely tell them that you would appreciate them not bringing any alcohol to the party as well.

Beverage Choices

Of course you'll still want to plan on providing your guests with beverages during the party. There are plenty of non-alcoholic choices such as sodas, juices, waters, teas, coffees, hot chocolate, apple cider or mock-cocktails. A mock cocktail is a drink that is similar to a mixed drink except it won't contain any alcohol. Drinks such as Pina colada, Daiquiris, Margaritas or Martinis can all be made without alcohol.

Simple Food

You will also want to have some food to serve as well as no party would be complete without something to eat! You could provide simple snacks such as finger food, appetizers, chips and dip, cookies, candy, small sandwiches or even Pizza. You could also cook up a batch of chili and have some nacho chips and cheese on hand so they could make chili cheese covered nachos.

Entertainment

Next you have to plan your entertainment. You will of course want music of some kind, so you could provide music from your own CD selections, hire a DJ, comedian or a Live band if your budget can afford it. You could also have some

fun with a Karaoke Machine as this is always fun for all and a machine can be purchased or rented for the evening. You could also hire a magician for entertainment or perhaps you have some friends who love to entertain people that can help you out as well.